

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are active in this application, Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 15, 16, 21 and 24 having been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 6, 8, 15 and 21 were objected to as including informalities requiring correction, Claims 1-3, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al (PN 5,640,462), Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al in view of Rougee et al (PN 5,699,446), Claims 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al in view of Chen et al (PN 6,047,080), Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al in view of Mori et al (PN 4,868,747), Claims 11-17 and 22-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Sato et al and Slack (PN 6,487,432), and Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Sato et al and Slack in view of Mori.

In response to the objection to Claims 6, 8, 15 and 21, the noted informalities have been corrected herewith.

In light of the several grounds for rejection on the merits, the independent claims have been amended to state -- a display section which displays the respective images in such a way as to shift the region of interest or the respective corresponding areas to an appropriate position.-- These changes are believed to overcome the outstanding grounds for rejection on the merits, and are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

As claimed, the apparatus or processor of the present invention displays an image whose ROI (Region of Interest) automatically shifts to an appropriate position.

In Sato et al., the X-ray CT apparatus comprises a scanner which detects and collects only peripheral features of ROI as an image reconstruction object so that CT scanning time is shortened.

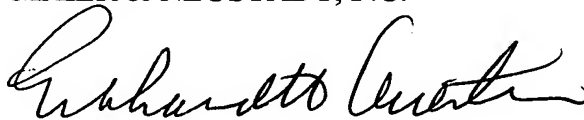
In Slack, point 108 is designated on 3D image 104, and a point corresponding to point 108 is extracted on each 2D image which constitutes volume data 100 (refer to FIG. 4, columns 4-5 and claim 1).

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest an apparatus having the noted "display section" as recited in Claims 1 and 11 or a processor having the noted "display section" as recited in Claims 16 and 24. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 1, 11, 16 and 24, and the remaining claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinguishing over the cited art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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